

3870 Davis Rd.
McNeal AZ 85617
May 13, 1999

0825 '99 MAY 18 A9:41
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Re: Docket #98N-1038 "Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food"

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to let you know that I believe that the FDA's labeling requirement of irradiated foods should not be permitted to expire nor be changed.

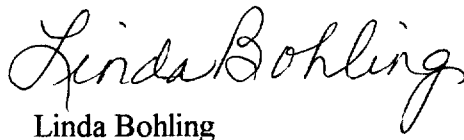
This is a new technology and has had no long-term studies concerning it. I believe that consumers have the right to be able to know if this process has been used on their food so they can make the choice whether to use the food or avoid it for reasons of not only safety, but also because of texture changes that it can cause, nutritional losses and storage qualities.

This labeling should be easily seen by the consumer on the front of the packaging and should include the terminology that consumers are already used to seeing in connection with the process. Changing the wording to other terms such as "pasteurization" would not accurately inform the consumers on the type of processing that truly has been used. The international symbol of the radura should also be used for those with limited reading ability. For foods that are unpackaged, some kind of poster should be displayed with the food to alert consumers to the processing.

It would be interesting to see the comments that you are receiving. Have you considered making these public via the Internet so those interested can view the comments?

Thank you for reading my letter.

Sincerely,


Linda Bohling

98N 1038

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